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Sensors directorate wins excellence award

by Leila Oliver, Sensors directorate

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO - The Sensors directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory recently received the 1999 Federal Laboratory Consortium's Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer for its work on heterojunction bipolar transistor, or HBT, circuits for high reliability dual use applications.

This team, as members of the Aerospace Components and Subsystems Technology Division, has successfully transferred AFRL's patented thermally-shunted heterojunction bipolar transistor technology to industry, particularly Northrop-Grumman's Electronic Sensors and Systems Division. This technology has widespread applications for the Air Force and other military systems, such as phased array radar, electronic warfare and communications systems, and for commercial applications such as wireless communications.

This team, an established center-of-excellence in the development of electron devices and the transfer of technology to industry, has been especially active in microwave HBT research by developing and demonstrating a variety of improvements that included a breakthrough in HBT thermal management. The team shattered the world record for microwave power density and since that time, they have solved many problems that have historically plagued industry's HBTs.

The award was presented to the team at the 25th anniversary Federal Laboratory Consortium April 21 in Salt Lake City, Utah. @